

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268

In the Matter of:

Sherwood Post Office
Sherwood, Michigan 49089
(Kathryn Barnes, Petitioner)

Docket No. A2012-83

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE RESPONSE TO
PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE REPLY COMMENTS**
(February 14, 2012)

The Postal Service responds to the Public Representative Reply Comments, in order to clarify the significance of the documents appearing in the administrative record which were transmitted by facsimile transmission. The Public Representative challenges the credibility of the Postal Service, and accuses the Postal Service of “replac[ing] and/ or add[ing multiple pages] to the original official record long after the Postal Service had already made their[sic] determination.” These speculative observations are incorrect.

As background, when Postal Service staff members compile the administrative record for filing with the Commission, they often must coordinate with field employees located throughout the country. The Headquarters personnel responsible for filing the administrative record must obtain the individual documents that make up the administrative record from officials located in the district responsible for the facility under study. In some cases, Headquarters staff becomes aware that a document is inadvertently omitted; in other cases, copies are illegible or unclear and a replacement page is requested. Here, some of the pages bearing facsimile transmission data were not obtained by Headquarters staff until the day of filing, and others replaced illegible

pages. Accordingly, the date of a facsimile transmission does not imply a procedural irregularity on the part of the Postal Service; instead, it simply reflects the date on which field personnel transmitted additional or replacement pages to Headquarters staff. The administrative record submitted in this docket reflects the documents considered by the Postal Service in reaching its final determination.

In the future, the Postal Service invites Public Representatives to contact Postal Service counsel to discuss matters such as those raised above, so as to avert the need for unnecessary exchange of pleadings.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
By its attorneys:

Anthony F. Alverno
Chief Counsel
Global Business & Service Development

James M. Mecone

475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260
(202) 268-6525; Fax -5628
February 14, 2012